REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 9, 13, and 15 are independent. Claims 1-18 are amended. Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment does not add any new matter.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

On pages 4-9, the Examiner's Answer rejected claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,697,845 to Andrews (hereinafter "Andrews"). On pages 9-10, the Examiner's Answer rejected claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Andrews. The BPAI affirmed these rejections on the basis of independent claim 1, as stated on page 3 of the BPAI's decision.

As amended, claim 1 recites "transmitting the extracted first legacy network management message to a **legacy agent**" (emphasis added). Paragraph [0017] of the published version of the specification provides support of this subject matter. Similar subject matter appears in claims 6, 9, and 13. Applicant respectfully submits that Andrews does not disclose, suggest, or teach this subject matter.

On page 5, the BPAI decision alleges that the recited subject matter does not exclude "encapsulating a protocol data unit into a SNMP message by the SNMP manager as described by Andrews." In response, Applicant respectfully submits

that the amended version of the independent claims does exclude such interpretation of the claims because Andrews lacks the recited legacy agent. As defined, for example, in paragraph [0017] of the published version of the specification, "the SNMP agent 32 extracts the legacy network management message from the SNMP message and passes it to the legacy agent 24." Thus, Andrews cannot provide this subject matter by merely encapsulating a PDU into a SNMP message with a SNMP manager.

For the reasons listed above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 13, and 15 are allowable over Andrews. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9. Claim 14 depends from claim 13. Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15. Thus, claims 2-8, 10-12, 14, and 16-18 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies from allowable claims. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all pending claim rejections.
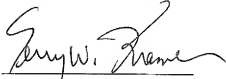
CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

Date: July 19, 2011

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